RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

DECEMBER, 1990 - JANUARY, 1991 *232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493*

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

SEASON'S GREETINGS

MEETING MINUTES

Our November monthly meeting had no guest speakers. This was the second meeting held on our new meeting day of Friday. Attendance for the new day is picking up. As usual we had a great deal of information to pass onto our members.

Our first priority was the variance being sought for 210 Ogden Avenue. Information concerning the difference between the previous business and the current variance seeker, a tile and stone cutter, was made available. Many concerned residents were planning to attend the meeting of the Board of Adjustment on Thursday, November 29th. (See separate articles on results of Bd. of Adjustment meeting)

We made final plans for our annual party for the residents of Harborview. This year the party will be December 7th and anyone who wishes to help serve and make this a great party, or who would like to contribute baked goods (regular or diet) may contact party chairman Jack Rea (653-6916).

Our holiday drive for the needy is going well and the goods will be picked up by the Salvation Army on December 13th. if any one is interested in contributing food, toys or money please contact, Maria Tuzzo, 659-2245.

Our December meeting will be a holiday get together. Please join us on Friday, December 14th - 7:30 p.m. at the Harborview Health Care Center. You are welcome to bring some food or drink. Come enjoy some holiday cheer and the good company of your neighbors.

Maria Tuzzo, Secretary

CHRISTMAS CARROLLING

Christmas carolling this year will be on Saturday, December 22nd starting at 7 p.m. at the park pavilion in Riverview Park, on Ogden Avenue. Won't you join us for an hour of holiday joy. You don't have to have a good voice (most of us don't) but we all do have fun. If you don't want to walk down Ogden Avenue with us, when we come to your house, open up your door and at least sing with us there. (We would not refuse an invitation to come into your home for a drink or some cookies.) If anyone would like to have us sing for them, please contact us at 963-0402, so we can put you on our route. Sheets of christmas music will be distributed. There are three things that our carollers must bring with them: 1) your own flashlight to read the song sheets, 2) warm clothing for the cold weather, and 3) a strong, loud singing voice. We look forward to you helping us share the joys of the holiday season with our neighbors.

HOLIDAY PARTY FOR THE HARBOR VIEW RESIDENTS

On December 7th, Riverview Neighborhood Association will celebrate the holidays with our lovely neighbors at the Harbor View Health Care Center. As is our custom, members and friends of RNA will serve homemade desserts and apple cider for the residents after their lunch meal. This year, our

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETINGS: 7:30 PM AT THE HARBORVIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

A) FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1990: "HOLIDAY PARTY"

B) FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1991

(THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE RNA NEWSLETTER WILL BE IN FEBRUARY, 1991.)

entertainment will include music and song and performances by the children of P.S. 8. Everyone has a grand time and it is good to see the residents enjoy themselves. There is also going to be a special surprise: the Torres children will give a Christmas gift to each of the residents - a homemade holiday ornament.

HOLIDAY MEMORIES:

MY MOM'S CHRISTMAS

My Mom grew up in a suburban town where they had snow bogging and horse hay rides. She told me many times what "Christmas" was like to her and her sisters. Grandmother used to save Octagon Soap coupons and with that she would get a doll for the girls for Christmas. My Mom and her sisters used to share the doll. Their socks were hung on Christmas Eve and Santa filled them with walnuts and marshmallows and one trinket from Woolworth's Five and Dime Store. My Mom told me this story over and over just like "The Night Before Christmas" every year. She had a wonderful Christmas and they were special to her because there was LOVE, WARMTH and SHARING in her home. Hope your Christmas is the same with LOVE, WARMTH and SHARING. Merry Christmas to all.

M.T.R.

Remember when.....

the ferry boat ride was a nickel (or you made believe you got off the train and got on free); all that good penny candy; when you could walk Mountain Road steps day or night; Woolworth's was a five and dime; ice cream cones were a nickel; graffiti free buildings; movie houses gave out china dishes; you saw cops walking their beats; Saturday night at Journal Square; girls jumping rope, hide and seek, kick the can and Johnny on a pony; roasting potatoes in the fire on the street; violence free movies; picnicking on the cliffs; snowball fights; Sunday Mass was a family affair; the trolley ride from Hoboken to Jersey City; cigarettes were one cent each or 2 for a penny; the election day fires.

Jack Rea

HOLIDAY RECIPES

1) CHRISTMAS LOG

5 eggs, separated
2/3 Cup granulated sugar
3 Tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
2 Tablespoons flour
1 Tablespoon 10X sugar (confectionery)
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 Tablespoons pistachio nuts (chopped fine)

Grease a 15 x 10 x 1 jelly-roll pan; line bottom with wax paper; grease paper again and lightly flour; tap off any excess

Beat egg yolks in large bowl with mixer at high speed until light and fluffy; gradually beat in granulated sugar and continue to beat until think and pale in color. Beat in cocoa and flour at low speed.

Beat egg whites in small bowl, until soft peaks form; fold into yolk mixture until no streaks of white remain. Spread batter evenly over pan.

Bake in moderate over (350) for 15 minutes. Remove and cover with wax paper and cool on wire rack.

Sprinkle an 18 inch long piece of wax paper lightly with 10X sugar. Loosen edges of cooled cake from pan and invert onto paper. Peel off paper. Trim edges and reserve 1/4 inch from narrow edges of cake. Spread cake thinly with 3 tablespoons Mocha Butter Cream.

Whip cream with the 1 tablespoon 10X sugar and the vanilla a a bowl until still. Spread evenly over cake on top of Mocha Butter Cream.

Roll lengthwise, using wax paper to aid rolling. Transfer to serving platter seam-side down.

Frost roll with remaining Mocha Butter Cream. Form the trimmed edges into 3 or 4 various sized coils and arrange on "log" to resemble trimmed limbs. Frost coils and ends of log; sprinkle with nuts. Use a fork to create a bark -like effect on the frosting.

MOCHA BUTTER CREAM

1 Cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
1/2 Cup 10X (confectioners') sugar
1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder
1 tablespoon instant powdered coffee
1 teaspoon water

Beat butter until fluffy in a small bowl; beat in sugar and cocoa. Dissolve coffee in water; beat into butter mixture

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2) Hornet's Nest Cake

1 small pkg. vanilla pudding
1 box yellow cake mix
6 oz. butterscotch morsels
1 cup chopped nuts

Cook pudding as directed and let cool. Mix in dry cake mix. Put morsels and nuts on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes in 9 x 13 pan.

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3) AUNT BEA'S FRUITCAKE

1 Cup honey
1 Cup oil
8 eggs separated
2 Pounds raisins

1 Pound chopped dates
2 Cups whole wheat flour
2 Cups chopped nuts
1/2 Cup fruit juice or apple cider
1 teaspoon each: cinnamon, allspice and nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon each: mace, cloves, ginger

Mix honey, oil and egg yolks. Combine raisins and dates with flour and add to egg yolk mixture along with remaining ingredients; except egg whites. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites.
Cut brown paper to fit three 9 x 5 inch loaf pans. Oil the pans and apply brown paper then oil the paper.
Bake at 275 degrees until done (1 3/4 hrs.)

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4) Mock Caviar Eggplant Appetizer

1 eggplant
2 Tablespoons chopped onion
2 Tablespoons olive oil
a teaspoon vinegar

Stick whole eggplant all over with fork.
Bake eggplant on rack in over for 1 hr.
Peel thin outer skin.
Mash seeds and flesh, add onion, oil and vinegar.
Chill and serve on a bed of lettuce.

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5) AND FINALLY OUR OWN CAKE OF HAPPINESS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

2 heaping Cups of Patience
1 handfull of Love
2 handfulls of Generosity
1 handfull of Understanding
a dash of Laughter
a generous sprinkle of Kindness
plenty of Faith

Combine Patience, Love and Generosity with Understanding.
Add a dash of laughter
Sprinkle Generosity with Kindness
Add plenty of Faith. Mix Well.
Spread over a period of a lifetime
Serve to everyone you meet.

Sit back, relax and enjoy a slice or two every day of the year. Good for all gatherings.

UPDATE: 210 OGDEN AVENUE

As you may know, in October, Jersey City Assistant Zoning Officer Tony Lambiase denied a request from Joe Mizzi, owner of 210 Ogden Avenue to pass on his non-conforming use variance to the Rodriguez brothers, the new prospective purchasers of 210, for their tile and stone cutting factory. Mr. Lambiase stated that since the uses were not the same - a car repair facility is not the same as a stone cutting factory - he must deny the Mizzi -Rodriguez request. An appeal was made to the City and a hearing was set for November 29th when Joe Mizzi would fight the denial of this variance continuation.

We the residents and voters of Jersey City went to City Hall that night to testify in support of the city's position: we did not, and still do not want this industrial factory in our residential neighorhood. We were prepared with statements and testimony and even a videotape that proved our position that this new business was not the same as the business that Mizzi was allowed to operate under the original variance, granted in 1982. What we witnessed was a most distasteful sham for what was supposed to be an objective hearing. I want to tell you fellow neighbors what the result of the hearing was.

The Board of Adjustment overturned the decision of their own Zoning officer and granted a continuance of the variance on the grounds that a light car repair business is the same as a stone and tile cutting factoy. Our group of neighbors that went down to City Hall were stunned and could not believe what had occurred. Can you?

By overturning the decision of Zoning officer, the Board was saying in essence: We, the Board will grant this continuation of the non-conforming use variance no matter what has been said by the Zoning officer or the neighborhood people. We, the Board believe that a light car repair business is the same as a industrial stone and tile cutting factory. We, the Board believe that you, Mr. Lambiase were wrong in denying this request. We, the Board do not believe the testimony of the hard working people in the neighborhood either.

[Incidentally, the car repair business that the original variance was granted for, has been out of business for at least four years. For the last four years, Mizzi has used his property as a parking garage for the local neighborhood.]

Well, neighbors, we know who is right and who is wrong! We know the difference between a parking garage, a light car repair, and an industrial stone and tile cutting factory. We want everyone involved to know that we will continue to fight for justice for our residents. We will fight to maintain our residential neighborhood against the intrusion of this industrial factory. We have children and seniors that walk and play on this street to protect. We must also protect our property values against this industrial nuisance.

We need each and every one of you voting citizens to let your voices be heard at City Hall, by calling the Mayor's office and the City Council office, to protest this insanity: the destruction of a residential community by allowing an out-of-town factory to move into the area. Interestingly, there are industrially zoned areas throughout Jersey City and Hudson County - why don't these Rodriguez brothers move their factory to one of them? Another observation: are the Rodriguez brothers going to live in this location, as they have stated and testified to, or are they just lying ?

Come to the next RNA meeting to discuss this situation and the next steps to take to counter this problem.

Marie Lannie

UPDATE: RIVERVIEW PARK

On November 28th, Council President Marilyn Roman called a special meeting to discuss the renovation plans of Riverview Park. Council member Rosario was present, as were the City architects Bob Cerchio and Jim Murray. Rodney Hadley of the Division of Parks attended the meeting. Ted and Ruth Conrad, Hank Cesari and Vito Brunetti represented RNA .

The first issue discussed was the legal necessity of the renovation. According to the architects, there are approximately seven law suits against the city because of citizens tripping on the broken sidewalk or falling on the basketball court. Second, the City is in violation of the zoning code because the drainage system in the Park is not working and causing the water run-off to flow over the sidewalk and into the street.

The plan calls for the installation of a new drainage system with PVC pipe and large catch basins, which will be self-cleaning. The complaint against this new system was that to install this underground system, at least two healthy trees would have to be removed because they were in the path of the piping. After much discussion, it was agreed upon that the architects would try to reroute two of the pipe lines to save three trees in the center of the Park.

This led to the second concern of the RNA, the potential destruction of healthy trees by the removal and replacement of the concrete sidewalk in the Park. After much discussion, the architects assured RNA that an arborist/tree surgeon, hired by the construction company, would be on site on a daily basis to intercede if there was a problem with any of the trees during the digging up of the Park. The architects informed us that they also would would monitor the tree cutting.

The last major issue was the replacement of the existing playground on Ogden Avenue with a larger one on Bowers Street. RNA presented the position that the existing playground, if there was proper maintaince and police security, would adequately satisfy the needs of the local community. Our concern was that this proposed larger playground would become an attractive nusiance and create more problems than are in the Park at present. Because of the utter lack of maintainence and proper police patrolling and security, the Park has become a hangout for antisocial elements at nights and on the weekends. RNA is concerned that this new larger play area will just become one more area for these vandals and drunks to loiter and destroy. Ms. Roman was uncomfortable with our analysis and wanted to find out more information about this issue. She promised us that she would investigate the need for a larger playgournd by contacting and talking to the local schools and churches.

Although we got a fair hearing, RNA is still concerned about the plans for this Park. We feel that the Park definitely needs a renovation (we have been asking for one since 1986), but we are concerned that this plan is an overkill situation that does not address the specific needs of the Park or the surrounding community. Incidentally, the initial cost estimate for this renovation is $340,000.

UPDATE: MOUNTAIN ROAD

There was a meeting on November 28th at City Hall to discuss the application for Green Acres funding for open space projects in Jersey City. One of the proposed projects was the converting of the closed Mountain Road in to a park and open green space. RNA made a strong complaint against this proposal - stating that it has been in correspondence with the Mayor's office, the Dept. of Engineering and the Division of Traffic Engineering to reopen the road for vehicular traffic. We explained at this meeting, that if the officials would have bothered to ask the association what they would like for their own neighborhood, they would have realized that there is a strong consensus to reopen the Road. The reasons for this are that the Road, in its closed condition, has become a "no-man's land" for anti-social elements that vandalize, sell and do drugs, break into cliff side property and escape from the police when necessary. There is a constant flow of people, of questionable character, on the Road from the Hoboken projects to the corner of Palisade Avenue and Franklin Street. Neighbors watch in horror as these people sell drugs and hide from the police on the Road. At present there is no lighting and until recently, it was overgrown with vegetation.

RNA has officially asked the City to reopen the Road for car traffic only in a one way direction: from west to east. We feel that with the Road reopened, the Police will be able to patrol and provide security for this part of our neighborhood.

RNA also stated at this Green Arces meeting, that we would support the cleaning up and landscaping of the triangular piece of open cliff space in the middle of the Road. It is owned by the City and would be an invaluable addition to the Palisade cliff open space project.

The following day, RNA contacted Joe Rosell of the Mayor's office and complained of this situation. Mr. Rosell returned the call and informed us that the Mountain Road park Project would be removed from the Green Acres application.

CONRAD'S CORNER

At the last council caucus and council meeting the items brought up on the agenda were no different from a year ago when the drums of development to bring about prosperity were lulling us all to sleep.

But now with all the news of a recession and the prospect of war in the Persian Gulf our city fathers are passing all sorts of resolutions as if prosperity is here again. Our planning department with two architects and a landscape architect have requested new modular furniture for their offices as if a change in office furniture will make their offices more efficient. An elaborate renovation now going on in the basement entrance of City Hall, more lavish than anything ever conceived upstairs when the building was built in the Victorian days. Real oak doorways and dropped ceilings are replacing plain utilitarian entrance ways for servicing the building. Even the second floor hallway to the council caucus room is sporting some marine art along the walls. There

are flounders, squid and fluke. In the stair hall are odd shaped pieces of wood retrieved from the Hudson River. The corridor leading to the mayor's office has a huge hornet's nest hanging from the ceiling, much larger than any in the N. Y. Museum of Natural History which should scare off any developer looking for a tax abatement. In good times we never thought of doing over City Hall, but now in bad times were doing a bang up job.

With a depression, which will be far worse than the '29 collapse of our economy, our middle class homeowners and senior citizens will suffer most because they pay the highest taxes. The City will have to let go some twenty percent of its staff in order to lower its tax rate. We don't need any more planners for development, they can go to the southwest to ply their wares.

We need maintenance workers to take care of our city, not high priced pin-striped suit planners to fritter away our last tax dollars.

It's been said that present oil supplies will only last about ten years. With all the gas wasted on our troops in the Persian Gulf our supplies may dwindle to less than eight years if a war should break out and perhaps six years if things get rough.

Why not limit the distance a worker can live from his job, it would save an enormous amount of oil and frustration. Just driving 30 miles per hour instead of sixty, which burns up twice as much gas would be a saving. If we started to convert our cars to gasohol Saddam Hussein could save his gas for us to use later and we wouldn't have to go to war. We'll have to do something in the near future anyway so why sacrifice some 30 thousand men because we're too slow to make a change over in fuels.

As long as we have a scarcity in our economy we all work like beavers to overcome it, but now we have a scarcity of jobs and no work. Can't we figure out someway to create a scarcity without having to go to war? Just changing all our cars over to gasohol could be that scarcity for the next five years.

LETTERS TO RNA:

(The following is a response from the Consumer Affairs Department of the United States Postal Service. The original letter complained of the lack of timely delivery of mail in our neighorhood.)

Dear Mrs. Tuzzo:

Thank you for your recent letter to Consumer Advocate Ann Robinson, who has referred it to me.

We share your concern that your advertising mail is not being delivered promptly. Although third-class mail can be deferred for short periods of time when it is necessary to process First-class and other priority mail, it should never, under any circumstances, be held at the delivery office for more than two days.

Because of our concern, we want to ensure that a high-level investigation is conducted. Accordingly, I have referred your letter directly to Sid McAbee, Field Director, Marketing and Communications in our Newark Division. I have asked that the delays be investigated, and that you and I be provided a report of the findings.

In closing, I want to emphasize that the Postal Service listens carefully to its customers and we strive to resolve any deficiency brought to our attention as quickly as possible. We do, therefore, thank your for taking the time to write.

Karen McAliley
Consumer Affairs Dept.
U.S. Postal Service
(202) 268-2284

ART LESSONS NOW AVAILABLE!!!

Did you ever look at a picture and say to yourself that you wished you could do something like that? Did you ever wish that you paid a little more attention to Art when you were in school because now maybe you would have the time to make that little picture that has been in the back of your mind? Well now is your chance. Raquel Sweeny is willing to share her knowledge of the Arts with us. She will be giving lessons from her house at 224 Ogden Avenue. You may call her at 656-8642. Cost is $10 per hour.

JERSEY CITY MUSEUM

Holiday Party and Dollhouse Raffle
(December 15th between 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.)

The Museum welcomes this holiday season with a special day of festivities for children and adults. The party is free and open to the public and will include music, holiday craft and ornament making workshops and refreshments.

One of the highlights of this years celebration will be a raffle of a Victorian dollhouse, made by artist and Museum volunteer, William Urspruch. The dollhouse is currently on view in the Museum Shop where tickets are now available.

The Jersey City Museum is also having an exhibit called Art for the Marketplace: **Illustrators and Designers for Colgate-Palmolive 1872-1956.** You will see the role of art in the advertising, product design, and packaging of manufactured goods from the 1870's to the 1950's. This exhibit will be from 12/11 thru 3/28/91. Opening reception on Tues. 12/11 from 5:30 to 8:30.

The Jersey City Museum is located on the 4th floor of the Main Library at the corner of Jersey Avenue and Montgomery Street.

Leaf Collection

The last day for leaf collection for 1990 will be December 20th. Place at curbside the night before. ABSOLUTELY, NO PLASTIC BAGS ARE TO BE USED FOR LEAVES. Call the Incinerator Authority at 432-4645 for free brown biodegradable bags.